

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for localizing a target graphic containing textual elements based on a first geographical region comprising the steps of:

 extracting textual elements from the target graphic; and

 storing the extracted textual elements as a first set of textual element records to be modified based on the language and/or customs of a second geographical region to form a second set of textual element records.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of accessing the first set of textual element records and modifying them to form the second set of textual element records.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of importing modified textual elements from the second set of textual element records into the target graphic.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the set of textual element records comprises a plurality of records stored in a database.
5. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a glossary containing translations for selected textual elements in a plurality of languages.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of storing the textual elements is performed by grouping the textual elements in layers.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising selecting layers from the set of textual element records to make visible in the target graphic.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the target graphic has a plurality of layers and wherein the step of extracting textual elements from the target graphic is performed by:

creating a database for storing textual elements;

examining each layer to determine if the layer is a text layer, and if a layer is a text layer, storing the text in the text layer in the database; and

repeating the steps until all layers of the target graphic have been examined.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of examining each layer is performed by examining a key for each layer.

10. A method for creating a database containing sets of textual element records for a target graphic having a plurality of layers and wherein the database contains a set of textual element records for the target graphic for each of a plurality of geographic regions, the method comprising:

examining each layer to determine if the layer is a text layer, and if a layer is a text layer, storing the text in the text layer in the database as a set of textual element records corresponding to an initial geographical region;

modifying the set of textual elements records based on a new geographical region;

storing the set of modified textual element records in a database location corresponding

to the new geographical region; and

repeating the modifying and storing steps as necessary to create database records for all of the plurality of geographical regions.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the step of examining each layer is performed by examining a key for each layer.

12. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions stored thereon for localizing a target graphic containing textual elements based on a first geographical region, wherein the computer executable instructions are for performing the steps of:

extracting textual elements from the target graphic;

storing the extracted textual elements as a first set of textual element records to be modified based on the language and/or customs of a second geographical region to form a second set of textual element records;

accessing the second set of textual element records for the second geographical region;

modifying the first set of textual element records to form the second set of textual element records; and

importing modified textual elements from the second set of textual element records into the target graphic.

13. The computer readable medium of claim 12 further comprising computer executable instructions for providing a glossary containing translations for selected textual elements in a plurality of languages.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 12 wherein the target graphic has a plurality of layers and wherein the instructions for performing the step of extracting textual elements from the target graphic comprise instructions for:

creating a database for storing textual elements;

examining each layer to determine if the layer is a text layer, and if a layer is a text layer, storing the text in the text layer in the database; and

repeating the steps until all layers of the target graphic have been examined.

15. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions stored thereon for creating a database containing sets of textual element records for a target graphic having a plurality of layers and wherein the database contains a set of textual element records for the target graphic for each of a plurality of geographic regions, wherein the computer executable instructions are for:

examining each layer to determine if the layer is a text layer, and if a layer is a text layer, storing the text in the text layer in the database as a set of textual element records corresponding to an initial geographical region;

modifying the set of textual elements records based on a new geographical region;

storing the set of modified textual element records in a database location corresponding to the new geographical region; and

repeating the modifying and storing steps as necessary to create database records for all of the plurality of geographical regions.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein the step of examining each layer is performed by examining a key for each layer.

17. An apparatus localizing a target graphic containing textual elements based on a first geographical region comprising:

means for extracting textual elements from the target graphic;

means for storing the extracted textual elements as a first set of textual element records to be modified based on the language and/or customs of a second geographical region to form a second set of textual element records;

means for accessing the first set of textual element records to form the second set of textual element records; and

means for importing modified textual elements from the second set of textual element records into the target graphic.